# he Messenger **MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP**



aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Florida - USA

August 2020

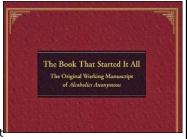
4315 NW 7th St. Suite 36 - Miami, FL 33126 / 305.461.2425 (24 hrs) /

305.461.2426 (Fax)

If your group is reopening the doors for meetings in person please do not forget to reach out to the Intergroup Office so we can post the correct information on our website promptly.

### WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

Mid-summer, 1938, was a wa tershed period for the writing of our Big Book—it almost did not happen! Donations from the Rockefellers, Charles Towns, and others were helpful, but Bill Wilson's upcoming Big Book project remained on hold, even doubtful. Bill W. had written two pre-manuscript



drafts: THERE IS A SOLUTION (Chapter One) and BILL'S STORY (Chapter two) during the late spring months of that year—Please notice the reverse order. These chapters were only a beginning effort to publish a short book that could sell for a dollar (about \$18.00 today). Happily, Doctor Silkworth added, THE DOCTORS OPINION that July.

Bill had endured financial struggle for over a year and had become understandably discouraged. By early fall he had not written anything for three months—he finally stated: "I am not an author." However, his partner, Hank Parkhurst, convinced him that just a few more chapters were needed to justify the \$1.00 price. Hank's adamancy was successful! Bill began writing the next two chapters, MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM and WE AG-NOSTICS ON September 15, 1938.

Thank God for Hank Parkhurst! I have always considered Hank and Ebby Thacher as two unsung heroes of AA history, although neither of them remained sober for timely periods. Bill may have made the touchdown, but Ebby handed him the Ball and Hank became his inspiring hard-driving coach!

Not to forget Jimmy Burwell who is given credit for "God as we understood Him."

By December Bill had finished the manuscript including HOW IT WORKS, INTO ACTION, WORKING WITH OTHERS, plus four other Chapters. Jim Scott helped write the Akron personal stories and the NY stories were also included. But in early 1939, Tom Uzzell, editor of Colliers Magazine, reduced the manuscript dramatically and a Dr. Howard (perhaps an alias) changed the tone from: "Thou must under pain of drunkenness," to "This is what we did."

The finished book was published in April of 1939. It sold for

So, Bill was gifted with many helpful friends as he constructed this marvelous life-saving book for us. Thank you, God!

Bob S, Richmond, IN

### Gossip, Criticism and Character Assassination **Understanding, Empathy and Compassion**

Hanging on to resentments and criticizing the behavior of others is often a noticeable characteristic of some members of the program that never seem to find the serenity and peace that is mentioned in the promises. For some people it seems impossible to let their guard down. I think that most of us can understand this, simply because we have all have to face this issue and deal with it, to one degree or another, as we  ${f I}_{
m qo}$  through the twelve-step process. One of the things that I learned when I was faced with this matter was that I had a self-esteem problem and I overcorrected, by pointing the faults of others, to somehow make myself appear normal. This never worked for me as I could not fool my conscience. Things only got worse. I still worked through the steps and did what I could at the time. No one gets it perfect the first time, but we can make a second effort at it when we have established a track record of living by principles. A.A. meetings are a training ground for how we treat Nothers and if we can't accept the people there, it's a cinch we won't do it loutside of the rooms.

Everyone that comes to A.A. brings with them their own assort-Iment of mental, emotional, spiritual, and material problems, and none of us are without these concerns. If we didn't have them, we wouldn't need this program. We all feel somewhat vulnerable and we establish our own firewalls, with the help of our EGO'S, to protect ourselves from our perception of what those other people are doing, saying, and thinking. We each might establish hard and fast protective reactions, mentally and verbally to protect our own turf. With so many different personalities brought together in one group, it's very hard to let down our guards, after all, we all feel somewhat justified when pointing out the faults of others. This is what the alcoholic personality does.

With the understanding that most forms of criticism and character assassination stem from low self- esteem, it occurred to me that I was just as guilty of the very things that I was accusing them of. I likened it to two old men in a convalescent home hitting each other with their canes because one was not walking fast enough for the other. I had to step up to the plate and become strong enough to look deeper into their motives and understand what caused them to behave the way they did, and not be threatened by their outside behavior. I cannot express in words the mental freedom that this principle has produced in me. When I see someone acting out, my first thought is not judgmental in nature but of empathy and compassion. My next thought is" what I can do to help him or her". Having adopted this approach, I have come to terms with all the people that I inner act with on a day to day basis and I no longer in con-Ifflict with anyone. To me, they are all like kids just learning how to do life. I They all have problems and I am not going to be one of their problems. I must be strong enough.....

Due to COVID-19 and the inability of the groups to meet in person we find ourselves limited to attend mostly online meetings. Even though people do contribute as per our 7th Tradition the Intergroup Office has been very affected and will be having a hard time keeping the doors open in the near future if us, the members and the groups don't contribute to keep its doors open.

Please keep your Intergroup Office in mind when you send your contributions, the office has a direct link for contributions on our website. www.aamiamidade.org -Thank you!

### Gossip, Criticism and Character Assassination

Cont. from page 1)

to replaced words like resentment, judgment, and criticism with empathy, understanding and compassion. Today I have no adversaries that I can think of, and peace of mind is the natural result of this approach.

I find no exceptions to this principle and I cannot be selective about who I apply it to. Everyone gets amnesty in my book. All that mental gymnastics about" those other people" is a distant memory and I can't think of a single time that practicing this principle didn't serve me well. The only one that is sorry for this profound and life changing transition is my EGO, but about that; who am I to criticize? :)

By Rick

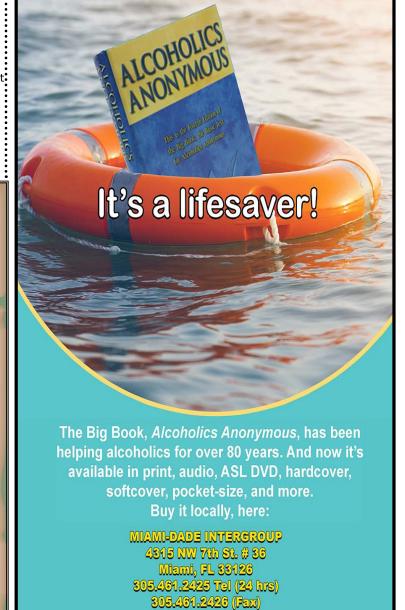
### BILL D.

Eager to carry the message, Bill W. and Dr. Bob searched for another person to help. After a slow start, their call to Akron City Hospital yielded a prospect — Bill D., a lawyer. During the visits of Bill and Dr. Bob, Bill D. took their message to heart and promised never to drink again - a vow he kept for life. Now remembered as the "man on the bed", Bill D. became the third member of what would eventually be called Alcoholics Anonymous.



A.A.'s first group dates from that day. Within a week, Bill D. was back in court, sober, and arguing a case. The message had been successfully shared a second time. Dr. Bob was no fluke, and apparently you did not have to be indoctrinated by the Oxford Group before the message could take hold.

Old Time A.A.





# **AAGRAPEVINE**, Inc.



Just a quick note to let you know the new book bundle "The Best of the Grapevine" volumes 1,2 and 3 will be available later this month.

Item #GV41

### Making Amends (Finding a New Freedom)

Features 55 candid, firsthand stories from A.A. Grapevine magazine of members' experiences with Step Nine of the A.A. program. The book includes chapters on making amends to parents, children, family members, exes, financial institutions, friends and coorkers. These powerful stories illustrate how practicing Step Nine can help us, as AA's co-founder Bill W. wrote, "know a new freedom and a new happiness."





MAKING AMENDS Finding a new freedom

### 'Made a list of all persons we have harmed and became willing to make amends to them all."

Here the program demonstrates its reality, its understanding of the nature of the alcoholic. How often have we come out of the fog to find the path strewn with persons we have injured or wronged? How often have we stayed awake at night thinking of the wife or mother or sister who suffered far more than we did on our last drunk?

Remember the kindly grocer who cashed our bum checks? Remember the look of anguish on the face of the boss when he had to tell us we were fired? Remember the guys in the company we let down when our part of the work was neglected? Of

course we do. But, more importantly, the A.A. program remembers and understands.

The 8th Step was written for us when we remembered these things. "Make a list," it says. "Be willing to make amends to them all." In other words, stop being remorseful and do something about it.

The part about making a list is easy. Depending on our history, we make either a long or a short list. But the part about making amends is tough. That part takes courage and humility. A man we know made a list of 43 former employers he had harmed, wrote a letter to each, and—fearing the consequences-left town for two weeks! When he arrived back in town, there were 43 answers. Every employer took time out to thank the man for his letter and to wish him luck!

Many A.A.s find it impossible to make full restitution to all persons. That's not essential if you have been willing to make amends. Sometimes, a trip across town to a person you have harmed is enough.

Most people are happier to see you sober than you think. It's human nature to root for the horse that's behind in the race. It makes people feel goodwhen you show enough courage to come up to them and tell them you are sorry. Making a list of things you did wrong is a good idea anyway. Just to look at the foolish and terrible things we do gives us pause to think. If we go further and try—we mean really try to do something about them, we get a far greater satisfaction than we deserve. The 8th Step is close to the 4th Step. It's practical and simple. If you found in the 4th Step that you were selfish, look at your list from the 8th Step and see who you harmed through selfishness. Then do something about it! The 8th Step convinces us that A.A. is a program of action. If you think it was hard to admit you were an alcoholic, see how you feel when you go to the people you have been avoiding to tell them you are sorry. That's really hard.

And yet, we cannot describe the wonderful satisfaction that comes if you go through with it. Even the air seems cleaner. Yes, the 8th Step is a lulu, but it pays off at the welcome rate of about 100.

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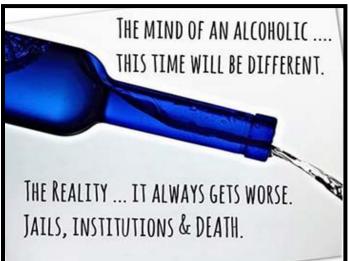
### STEP EIGHT

CONSCIOUSNESS **FORGIVENESS FORTIFY GRACE** HARM

**ISOLATION OBSTACLE OURSELVES PERSONALITY** RESTITUTION

**SELFISH TRAITS UNAWARE** WILLINGNESS **WRECKAGE** 

MADE A LIST OF L PERSONS WE HARMED, AND WILLING TO RECAME AMENDS TO THEM ALL."





**Mensaje sobre La Convencion** 

Para toda la comunidad de A.A.

Se les informa que por motivos del COVID 19 y tomando en cuenta que oficialmente no se pueden hacer eventos masivos hasta la fecha.

Hemos tomado la decisión de POSPONER nuestra 48 CONVENCIÓN para septiembre 3,4 y 5 del 2021, tomando en cuenta que la salud es lo mas importante

Próximamente se les informara mas sobre el comite y sub's comites en el boletin # 4

Tambien les recordamos que se sigue recibiendo información de los oradores e incisos.

Si alguien tiene alguna duda o pregunta sobre el hotel. Favor de llamar a la mesa del comité organizador.

Sin mas que agregar y agradeciendo a todas las areas y la comunidad de A.A. en general su apoyo, les deseamos salud y sobriedad.

XLVIII CONVENCIÓN HISPANA DE A.A.
USA Y CANADA

#### OCTAVO PASO

"Hicimos una lista de todas aquellas personas a quienes habíamos ofendido y estuvimos dispuestos a reparar el daño que les causamos."

### OCTAVA TRADICION

"Alcohólicos Anónimos nunca tendrá carácter profesional, pero nuestros centros de servicio pueden emplear trabajadores especiales."

REUNIONES VIRTUALES EN ESPANOL

WWW.AAMIAMIDADE.ORG

**GRUPOS:** 

VIVIENDO SOBRIO CORAL GABLES LA GRAN MANZANA NORTH MIAMI GROUP

Si necesitan postear sus reuniones virtuales en el website de

Miami-Dade Intergroup por favor enviar e-mail a aamiamidade@bellsouth.net o llamar al 305.461.2425 con su informacion.



### **EXPERIENCIAS ESPIRITUALES**

Es cierto que todos los poseedores
de experiencias espirituales
confirman su verdad. La mejor
evidencia de esa
verdad está en los frutos que
produce. Aquellos que reciben
estos dones de gracia son gente
muy transformada,
casi invariablemente
hacia lo mejor.
- Bill W.
Llegamos a Creer

### **FAITHFUL FIVER MEMBERS**

### Yes, I want to participate in the Faithful Fiver Club!

,	- ·			
Contribution information	: Date:			W / /
Amount:	Monthly:	Quarterly:	Annually:	5
	(Note: No A.A. mem	ber can contribute more than \$3	,000 per year)	
I am a new Member:			Returning Member:	
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Contributions, or Sobriety (indeed a miracle. Your con	Contributions, something wateributions show that you co	vonderful happens in A.A. Whe are about the services we as a	ner through those who "Contrib en a newcomer calls us and find fellowship provide and continu	ls your meeting, it is ed hope for the

**FAITHFUL FIVER FRIENDS** are fellow A.A. members who contribute \$5.00 a month to the Intergroup Office as an act of gratitude. Their generosity help us to carry the message of A.A. to the still sick and suffering alcoholics throughout the year! THANK YOU TO OUR FAITHFUL FIVER'S....Your contributions are very much appreciated. **7 Anonymous.** 

#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

carrying the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.'

### GS DISTRICT 10 Monthly Business Meeting

1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at the CG Congregational Ch. 3010 De Soto Blvd., CG

### **GS DISTRICT 10 Corrections Committee**

4th Thursday of the month @ 8:00pm at Sabal Palm Room 10102 SW 107th Av., 33176

#### **Miami FCYPAA Host**

2nd & 4th Sunday of the mont @ 1:30pm at the Lambda Miami Club 28 NE 54

### ves Committee

4th esday of the month @ 6:30pm - Sunset Room 6999 N. Waterway Dr.

### **Remote Communities**

3rd Sunday of the month @ 10:00am at Little River Club 51 NE 82nd Tr.

### Accessibilities

### **GS DISTRICT 10 Grapevine Committe**

1st Wednesday of the month @ 7:15pm Upper Room 822 NE 125th St. # 111 North Miami, FL 3316

## Literat e in the month

2nd Tu the month 1gl a Metodista Unida Ponce de Leon Blvd.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### Meetings at the CORAL ROOM

1100 Ponce de Leon, CG 305.446.9558 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### GS DISTRICT 10 PI/CPC

4th Saturday of the month @ 3:00pm

### **Treatment Committe**

3rd Saturday of the Month @ 3:00pm

For more information go to www.district10miami.org

### **The Gift of Desperation**

I woke up in Desperation, Half a century ago
I had squandered all my options and,
I had no place to go.

Guilt and Shame and Loathing thoughts weighed, heavy on my mind

But I was used to waking up, with dark thoughts of that kind

My drinking used to mask those feelings, that I had that day

And if I ventured just one sip,

they'd soon be washed away

As I look back on that event, it's very plain to see The thought that gripped my conscience was, A New Reality

It was my Day of Reckoning and, I Cherish it today For without that Desperation I,

may not have called AA
Within moments of exposure to that kind and loving group

The drink obsession vanished. Optimism closed that loop.

Thinking someday I'd be tempted,

I was vigilant from the start

And Since it never happened,

I thank God with all my heart

For decades I have questioned why

it works so well for me

While watching others suffer through a life of misery
When asked that simple question
I now answer with a smile It all happened

when Desperation far Outweighed my own Denial.

- By Rick R.

### INTERGROUP CONTACT LIST

aamiamidade.org

Chairman

Manuel N

Vice-Chair

Raz S.

Treasurer

Dylan S.

Secretary

Del H.

### **Steering Committee**

Jennifer R.

Tom D.

Tamara K.

Barry G.

Ian S.

### **Trustees**

Askia K.

### Virtual Founder's Day

Sean-Paul G.

#### **Intergroup Banquet**

Ian S. (Chair)

Leah L. (Co-Chair)

### **Intergroup Office**

Jennifer R.

### The Messenger

Office

### Outreach

Sean-Paul G.

### **Public Information**

Sam H.

### **Twelve Step Relay**

Jenn G.

### **Big Service Breakfast**

Dylan S.

#### **General Service Liaison**

Tamara K.

#### Spanish Intergroup Liaison

**OPEN POSITION** 

Webmaster

Office

## GENERAL SERVICE CONTACT LIST

www.district10miami.org

Chairman

Gerry S.

### **Alternate Chairperson**

Peter D.

#### **Treasurer**

Regina F.

#### Registrar

Sara G.

### **Recording Secretary**

David M.

#### **Archives**

Toni Marie

### Corrections

Erik R.

### **Current Practice**

Ray S.

### Grapevine

Anna G.

### **Gratitud Dinner**

David M.

### **Intergroup Liaison**

Jorge L.

#### Literature

Isabel C.

PI/CPC

Mario P.

### Accessibilities

Melissa L.

### Treatment

Glen H.

### Big Service Breakfast

OPEN POSITION

### District 17 Liaison

Sonia H.

### **Remote Communities**

George R. 1

### Webservant

Nino P.

### "THE MESSENGER"

Published Monthly by

### MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

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### **NOTICES**

Notices published in "The Messenger" are taken from information submitted to the Miami-Dade Intergroup Office Information is based on what is current at the time of printing.

If your group discontinues a meeting or changes it's schedule time, please notify Intergroup as soon as possible at (305) 461-2425

Articles and opinions expressed herein not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Further endorsements, opposing views and rebuttals to articles published are also welcomed. Also, please tell us how we can improve.

### Contributions to "THE MESSENGER"

will be gratefully accepted.
A sign up form is on the back cover.

E-mail the Editor at: aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Please make checks payable to: MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

### **TRADITION EIGHT**

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service center may employ special workers."

### JULY

### **SOUTH DADE**

Lynda 1 Roxanne 1 Cam 2 Vanessa 3 John H. 5 Carol 9 Kathy 10 Kirstin F. 10 Todd L. 27 Marion L. 27

#### **SUNSET**

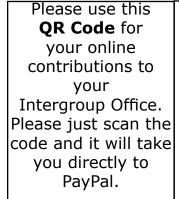
Kelly G. 1 Chris C. 2 Paula G. 2 Pat M. 2 Ray C. 2 Diana L. 4 Maribel, 5 Yailen P. 5 Billy B. 12 Joe A. 25 Jim Q. 33 Olga C. 34

Roxanne. 1

### **PALMETTO BAY**

Mario M. 4 Alana 4 Kathy M. 10 David 15





No contribution counts as small.

We at Intergroup appreciate your continued support!





Scan. Pay. Go.

### 

Do you know any Russian-speaking friend, who has drinking problems? Please invite them to our new 7pm **Sunday Russian-speaking** Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.



**2STEPHOUSE** 

www.russianaa.com russianaa.florida@gmail.com

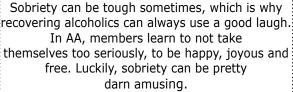




"Enjoy the little things, or one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

- Robert Brault

### Take Me To Your Sponsor



### Group Conscience/Business/Service Meetings

Brickell Group/3rd Thursday @ 1:05pm Brickell Circle/3d Saturday @ 8:15pm Coral Gables Group/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm Good Morning Group/3rd Friday @11:00am Happy 1060 Group/3rd Sunday @ 11:45am Happy Hour Group/ 3rd Thursday @ 6:35pm Homestead Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm Lincoln Road YP/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm Little River Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm Miami Young People/3rd Saturday @ 7:00pm Mix Nuts Group/1st Monday @ 9:30pm New Beginner's # 2/2nd Thursday @ 7:30pm Night Owl Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm North Miami Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:15pm Palmetto Bay/3rd Wednesday @ 6:35pm Primary Purpose/Last Wednesday @ 6:45pm Quinto Paso/1st Monday @ 7:00pm Sabal Palm/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm Sober Way Out/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm Something Happens/1st Saturday @ 10:00am South Dade Group/3rd Wednesday @ 7:00pm South Dixie Group/2nd Sunday @ 12:15pm Sunset Group/2nd Friday @ 7:00pm West Miami Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm We Stopped in Time/1st Monday @ 9:35pm Young, Sober &Free/Last Sunday @ 8:05pm

#### **Group Anniversaries**

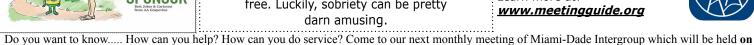
Almeria Group/Last Tuesday @ 7:30pm Bickell Circle/Last Thursday @ 8:00pm Coral Gables Group/Last Monday @ 8:00pm Grupo Central/Last Sunday @ 1:00pm Good Morning Group/Last Friday @ 10:00am Happy 1060 Group/Last Sunday @ 10:45am Happy Hour Group/Last Friday @ 5:30pm Homestead Group/Last Thursday @ 8:30pm Key Biscayne Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Killian Pines Group/Last Friday @ 8:00pm Lincoln Road YP/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm Little River Group/Last Wednesday @ 8:30pm Miami Springs Group/Last Monday @ 7:30pm Miami Young People/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm Mixed Nuts Group/Last Monday @ 8:30pm North Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Palmetto Bay Group/Last Saturday @ 5:30pm Plymouth Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:00pm Primary Purpose/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm Sabal Palm Group/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm Shamrock Group/Last Tuesday @ 8:30pm Sober Way Out/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Something Happens/Last Saturday @ 9:00am South Dade Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm South Dixie Group/Last Saturday @ 7:30pm Sunset Group/Last Friday @ 7:30pm West Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm We Stopped in Time/Last Monday

### **LOOKING FOR MEETINGS?**

Young, Sober and Free/Last Sunday

Learn more at: www.meetingquide.org





# Help Support "The Messenger" This Publication Belongs To You!

To make address changes you can notify the Intergroup Office or mail in the form below. To subscribe to "The Messenger" please fill out the form below and mail with your \$12.00 for a yearly contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP
c/o The Messenger

Name:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	

Please note: When you mail in this form, feel free to add something you would like to share with the fellowship (a thought, a story, a joke or something you heard at a meeting.)

### HELP US CARRY THE MESSAGE!!!

